

distinctly, what you have to say, and not join together things entirely different and dissimilar. Lastly, if you pronounce each letter and syllable with a proper sweetness, neither stifling your words between your teeth, as if you were chewing them, or huddling them together as if you were swallowing them. By carefully attending to these precepts then, and a few more of this kind, others will hear you gladly and with pleasure, and you yourself will obtain with applause that degree of dignity which becomes a well-bred man and gentleman."¹

In brief Chesterfield wished his son to attain the same goal which the renaissance idealist wished the Courtier, that is perfection. "The disposition of the best, the words of the wisest the actions of the noblest, and the carriage of the fairest."²

In conclusion, Lord Chesterfield's Letters to His Son is strikingly similar to the "Conduct Books" of the sixteenth century. The Letters, although in short installments, taken as a whole, have a well organized aim, purpose, and plan. They are similar in these respects to the handbooks which seek gradually to guide the Elizabethan youth from his early years to his maturity. Had the son, young Philip Stanhope, followed successfully his father's advice, he would have had the grace, the manners, the accomplishments, the education, and the character that would have done justice to any "pensioner gentleman" of the sixteenth century or to the highest ideal of Lord Chesterfield, the best mannered gentleman of his time.

1. Galateo, p 137.

2. Inedited Tracts, The Court and Country, p 208.